

Weekly Index.

Columbus, Miss., July 16, 1875.

The Meaning of the "Color Line."

The Democrats of Copiah county held a meeting at Hazlehurst on the 5th and passed the following resolutions:

Resolved, That this Convention is opposed to the color line, and regard it as wrong both in principle and policy.

Resolved, That we are in favor of voting for no candidate for office unless he is qualified to discharge the duties of the office intelligently, and with a character for honesty that will secure the faithful discharge of his duty.

In explanation of these resolutions, Col. Ben. King said:

As he understood the color line policy, it is a covert ill-will toward the colored man because he had permitted himself to be used by the Radicals against the best interests of his country. The animus of the color-line, he held, was directed toward the wrong individuals—that it should be directed against the leaders. Candidates should not be left to explain this each for himself—they should not be like the pedler with the india rubber suspenders, short enough for the boy and long enough for the man. He was in favor of inviting colored men of sense, discretion and honesty to act with us.

It is very evident that in thus attempting to define the color-line policy, Col. King has chosen a subject much too large for his comprehension, and naturally, therefore, has made several grave mistakes. For, the color-line is not a "covert declaration of ill-will toward the negro," but is a plain and open declaration by the white people that they will no longer submit to the oppression and spoliation of the negro representatives. Again, it is not "will toward the colored man"—nor does it mean an abridgement of, or interference with his rights as a citizen in any manner whatever. But it does mean that the white people will no longer passively consent to sacrifice duty and honor in bribing for the negro vote, by supporting corrupt and depraved negroes for office.

There is one point in Col. King's remarks which we cordially endorse, that is, "inviting colored men of sense, discretion and honesty to act with us," only we leave out the qualifying adjectives and invite all colored men, irrespective of condition, to act with us. But, we do not intend to give them the lead, or to elect any of them to office.

The Vicksburg Herald says:

The funniest thing, however, in connection with this Copiah meeting is, that while the majority of those present endorsed the opposition views of Col. King, and applauded his declaration in favor of inviting the negroes "to act with us," they never said negro once. They nominated eight candidates, and every mother's son is white! They also appointed eight delegates to the State Convention at Jackson, and they, too, were all white. Are not our Copiah friends just a little fearful that Sambo will not estimate their invitation "to act with us," quite as highly as Col. Ben. King seems to value that inestimable boon? We fancy that the Colonel will find his suspenders too short for the boys and not strong enough for the men.

London, July 8.—Disraeli made a statement in regard to the contemplated visit of the Prince of Wales to India. He said the compliment suitable for a visit to the colonies would not be in place for a journey through India. Although the Viceroy had intimated that the custom of making ceremonial presents need not be observed, yet the Prince must be placed in a position to exercise generosity and display splendor. It would, however, be undignified to enter into a discussion on this point.—His Royal Highness will start for India on the 17th of October, and his visit will last six months. The expenditure to ensure the necessary pomp and dignity will be \$710,000.

On the 5th, the Democrats of Copiah county convened at Hazlehurst, elected an executive committee, nominated candidates for legislative, county and beat offices and resolved against the color-line. Dr. E. A. Rowan and Geo. W. Miller were nominated for the legislature.

The Bribery of the Lieutenant-Governor—A Card from Col. Gibbs.

DALLAS, Texas July 3rd, 1875.

To the Editor of The Index:

A friend of mine has just placed in my hands the different issues of your paper in which I am made to play a conspicuous part in the "Barrentine Pardon" affair. I now deem it my time to "have my say" as it appears I, only, am left unsaid.

I most solemnly and emphatically deny having ever aided in procuring the pardon of Barrentine. I knew nothing of it, until I was requested to examine it after it was issued and brought to Columbus. Being a Mississippian by birth, education and affection, I have friends in that State whose good opinion I cherish. Such, know me incapable of any act inconsistent with honor and integrity. At the same time they know my fealty to real friends whom I am ever ready to serve when I do no violence to my convictions of honor and honesty.

Respt &c.

W. E. GIBBS.

We take great pleasure in publishing the above card of Col. Gibbs. We never intentionally do any man injustice.

Col. Gibbs is a native of this county, and until this Barrentine affair, we never heard a breath of suspicion cast upon his integrity. We are authorized by Col. S. M. Meek to say that he has in his possession facts, though submitted to him in confidence, which, in his judgment, fully exonerate Col. Gibbs from any thing dishonorable in connection with the Barrentine matter.

In our conversation with Col. Meek, though he was reticent as to the facts in his possession, we gathered enough to satisfy us that we were right in our charge that Davis was bribed and we now reiterate it. And it will be observed, that Col. Gibbs does not deny having paid Davis the money after the pardon was received in Columbus. He has nothing to say about that \$1250 check which he exhibited in front of the Merchants' Exchange on Saturday, May 22nd, and which E. P. Richards saw was certified by Williams, J. & Co. in the hand writing of C. A. Johnston.

Col. Gibbs' explanation ends exactly where his connection with the matter begins. We are willing to accept his explanation as far as it goes, but it does not go far enough.

Terre Haute, July 2.—At Long Point, where a train stopped to wood—there being no house in a mile and a half of the station—robbers boarded the engine, one from each side, and ordered the engineer to start the engine, who after a few moments' hesitation did so, when one of the robbers saying, we will run the thing ourselves, shot the engineer; both fired, killing him instantly. A fireman hearing this ran to the rear train to alarm the train-men. While this was going on confederates detached the express car and engine. The robbers ran the train two miles when they demanded admission to the express car which the messenger, Burke, refused, saying that he was ready for them and if they entered they were dead men. The robbers commenced firing into the car. The messenger thinks there were a dozen of them. The train men came up and the robbers fled.

Belfast, July 7.—The American Team arrived here on reception evening. They were surprised at the station on their entry into Dublin by Mayor Lindsay and the corporate authorities, who escorted them to carriages. The procession then moved forward, and the guests made a triumphant entry into the city, passing through streets festooned with banners and packed on each side by crowds apparently comprising the entire population. The cheering was unceasing from the moment they left the station until they reached the Imperial Hotel, where speeches were made by Col. Gildersleeve and Major Leech. Tremendous enthusiasm was manifested on the road; welcoming crowds were passed at every station between Dublin and Belfast, and many church spires were flagged. At Port Adown the railway company provided a special train for the visitors for the remainder of the journey to Belfast.

Handsboro Democrat: Gov. Ames is still at his dear old home in Massachusetts. His 18x20 cottage at Bay St. Louis threatens soon to become the abode of bats and owls,—fit tenants for a robbers den.

[CORRESPONDENCE.]

CALEDONIA, Miss., July 8th, 1875.

To the Editor of The Index:

Permit a voice from the uppretentious rural districts to shout "bravo" to your wide awake journal that is battling so nobly in the cause of the white men of this country. Since the Radical pow wow at Columbus last Saturday it looks indeed encouraging for poor old Lowndes. "When thieves fall on honest men get their dues." There is a split in the Radical party no less than two years ago from all appearances. The twin carpet-baggers Lewis and Bliss, have been smartly snubbed by the scallawag and Gleeed nation who seem to have gotten the inside track. But these Yankees are spunk and grit to the last and we may expect them to lead Bob Gleeed as lively a dance as they did two years ago.

Now, is it the intention of the white men of Lowndes county to stand idly by, as they did then, and see these miscreants gamble for the spoils that must come from their own pockets?

Why, if such an opportunity is lost to rid ourselves of these cormorants, we deserve nothing better than the government we have. Let us then, roll up our sleeves and go to work!

A little of the white-line doctrine and practice, will accomplish it, and if it becomes necessary, in order to rid ourselves of these horse-leeches that are sucking the life blood from our people that a "white-line" should be drawn around the necks of two or three of them—the other end well secured to the tree of Liberty—in the name of justice and an oppressed free born people, let it be so drawn—and tightly. Let some of these gentry who are running so zealously for office, run at the same, and their patriotic desire to serve their country will be considerably and wholesomely cooled.

This is our theory of the campaign and all we have to say is, lead on, brave INDEX; the people are at your back and eager for the fray.

What say Crawfordville and Artesia?

HUMAN RIGHTS.

The Earthquake in Columbia—Heart-Rending Details.

New York, July 5.—Later mail advices from different places in Columbia, South America, more than confirm the horror of the earthquake in May. A letter from Soacha, May 28, says Cuzcuta is a pitiful sight.—Everything is in ruins, not a house remains standing and thieves and robbers from surrounding country have swept down upon the ill-fated city and hardly a single safe has been saved from the Customhouse.

The villages of San Cristobal, Farinas, Guasimo, Captacho, San Antonio, Lobatira, San Juan, De Urena, Rosario and San Cayetano are completely destroyed.

The Statehouse at Puerto De Loz Caches was sacked and burned by bandits. Letters from Havana May 20, say 10,000 people were killed at Cuzcuta in addition to other thousands who were seriously wounded and banished. Death and desolation reigned everywhere. Great numbers of haciendas have been destroyed.—Hundreds of houses in the country overthrown, leaving the people homeless and consigned to poverty. Many of the trees were torn up from the roots and small hills were rent open.

The cause of the great catastrophe is of course unknown and the precise place of its first manifestation; some suppose that the volcano of Sobotera which was in action in 1348 is again coming out, while others say that a new volcano has appeared in the hills of Giracha.

A private letter from Bucaramanga of May 24th, says: In Piedecuesta the town hall is destroyed and in Pampelona the Cathedral is in ruins.

A telegram from Hon. Aquel Parra to Pres. Perez, dated Bucaramanga, May 24, says: "The earthquakes continued last night. The cathedral in Pampelona fell. There is great alarm and great devastation throughout the valley of Cuzcuta."

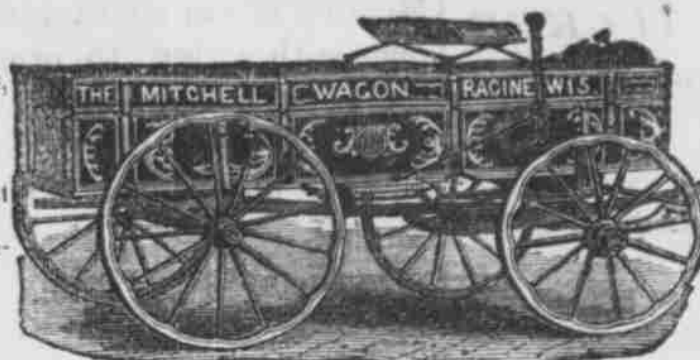
A dispatch to President Perez, from Chinacota, May 24, says: "The population of San Jose Rosario and San Cayetano have disappeared."

The rest of the department is in ruins. More than 4000 fell victims. A dispatch from Sacorro dated May 24, says the situation is assuming a grave aspect, and sickness and starvation in Pampelona are increasing. A telegram from Chiquenquara of May 22, says the shocks are repeating—two last night and one to-day. 400 mules were killed in the streets and as there is no one to remove them the street is becoming frightful.

Vicksburg Herald, 9th: Cardozo was seen Wednesday morning near the Claiborne county line. He was in a rather sorry plight, having made his way through a swamp path that has not been traveled for years.

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